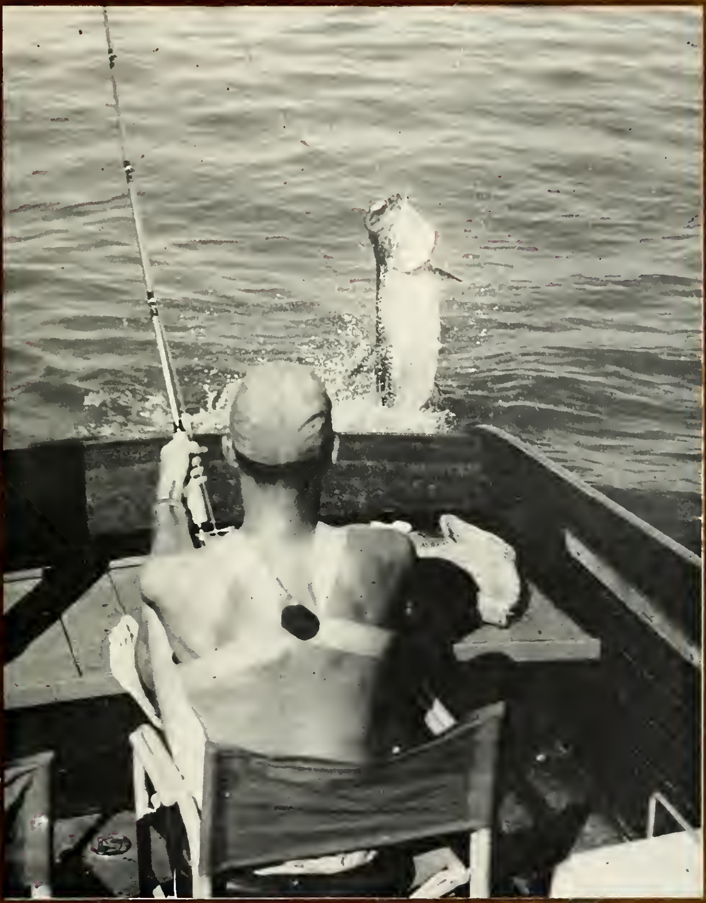
LOUISIANA Conservationist

SEPTEMBER, 1953



Louisiana CONSERVATIONIST

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Director

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Editor

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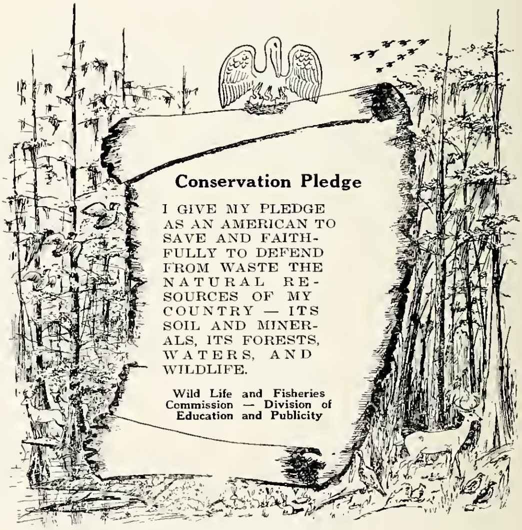

Conservation Pledge

I GIVE MY PLEDGE AS AN AMERICAN TO SAVE AND FAITHFULLY TO DEFEND FROM WASTE THE NATURAL RESOURCES OF MY COUNTRY — ITS SOIL AND MINERALS, ITS FORESTS, WATERS, AND WILDLIFE.

Wild Life and Fisheries Commission — Division of Education and Publicity

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IN THIS ISSUE

PAGE
He Trains the Bird Dogs 2
by John Blanchard
Shrimp Boats Is A-Comin' 6
Fish Dieoffs Explained 7
by Frank Coogan
Fishery Work on the Calcasieu 8
by Victor Lambou and Robert Lafleur
Fish Inventory Methods 9
by Victor Lambou
The L-C Treatment of Venomous Bites or Stings 10
by Herbert L. Stahnke
Southwest La. Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo 12-13
Deer in Louisiana—Part III 14
by Raymond Moody, Lyle St. Amant and Carrol Perkins
"Dear Mr. Fish and Wildlife Service" 16
M'sieur Cricket 17
by Gwen Kirtley Perkins
It CAN Happen to You 18
by Claude Gresham

DEPARTMENTS

PAGE
Message from the Director 1
With the Federation 20
Action of the Commission 22
Speak Your Piece 23
What They're Saying 24
Bayou Browsing .... Inside Back Cover

COVER:

Tarpon fishing off Southwest Pass.
—Photo by Blanchard

Message from the Director . . .

L. D. YOUNG, JR.
Director
Louisiana
Wild Life and Fisheries Commission

Mother Nature is always a deciding factor or plays the major role in conservation measures, for both fish and game.

Our biologists tell us that Mother Nature has been unusually kind this year with a phenomenal dividend in fish. This is due, they say, to natural causes without the aid of man. Spring floods struck northern and central Louisiana after a protracted dry spell, creating conditions most favorable for the rapid growth of most species of native fishes, particularly bass and sac-a-lait or white perch.

Spreading over the swamps and bottom lands, the young fish, formerly confined to permanent streams and lakes, were able to grow more rapidly and in far greater numbers because of the abundant supply of food organisms made available to them in the newly flooded areas.

It is all the result of the eternal cycle or food chain, as biologists call it: Nutrient salts—microscopic animals—minnows and other forage fishes—predatory fishes. The gross weight of the last link in the chain and the resulting harvest possible, is always proportional to the weight of the first link in the chain, we are told. There is nothing we can do about this phenomenon . . . but go fishing.

While the favor of Mother Nature will affect game fish this year, the commercial fish will require more time to become of harvestable size. Spring hatches of bass and sac-a-lait will be of legal size by mid-September—10 inches and seven inches, respectively.

Louisiana, bedecked with a myriad of lakes and rivers, has, for the most part, been favored by our unseen helper and grows more fish than anglers could ever harvest with hook and line. For this we are grateful.

While the fishing is good, I'll see you upstream. Take a boy with you.

He Trains The BIRD DOGS

by
John Blanchard

Photos by Author
unless otherwise credited

Sire . . . dam . . . litter . . . campaigning . . . picket line . . . game: These are household words in the J. Earl Bufkin home at Norwood, Louisiana, where some 50 dogs each year work over 3,500 acres of ideal quail territory which is literally infested with fine specimens of this king of game birds.

The sharp cry of the bobwhite, the muffled, enticing answer of the hen, and the eager barking of a kennelful of setters and pointers can be heard from the front porch of the Bufkin home, which, incidentally, was built in 1836.

Here's where gun and field trial dogs get their education. From puppyhood through the world series of trials at Grand Junction, Tenn., setters and pointers are put through their paces beginning in September and continuing to June or until temperatures range from 85 to 90 degrees.

With 32 years' experience and 2,000 dogs behind him, including the breeding, handling and training of the famous Mississippi Zev, 1946 national champion, and now owner of the renowned Tennessee Zev, 1947 American Quail Futurity Champion, Mr. Bufkin is qualified to dispense first-rate advice to novices in the business. He believes strongly, for example, that the trainer should first get acquainted with any dog before attempting to handle him in the field. He should become a pal of the pup before he tries to teach him old dogs' tricks. "Man and dog must understand each other," he emphasized.

"There's no formula to use in handling bird dogs," he continued. "Every dog has his individual personality and traits, and each must be given thoughtful consideration. Puppies from the same litter are often as different from each other as are those non-related by blood," he pointed

Earl Bufkin's 32 years of experience is highlighted by his breeding, training, and handling of Mississippi Zev, 1946 national champion.

—Photo Courtesy of Earl Bufkin

out, adding that few have the same temperament and desire.

When queried about the time consumed in training a dog for hunting purposes, he offered this advice: "A lot depends on where I start from as to when I'll arrive. Some dogs may be trained to be fair gun dogs in 30 days, while others require five to six months of intensive workouts.

"You must have birds to train dogs. For this reason I spend much time with my brooders and pens." (Note: he has 1,200 quail on hand now.)

"I have ridden many hard miles to find birds to make one correction on a dog and then have not found a covey or single," Mr. Bufkin said.

Young and older dogs get workouts not only on quail, but on pigeons also. The idea originated with an elderly Mississippi handler who coined the phrase "dizzying pigeons." The pigeon was swung round and round until it was addled; then it would be placed with its head under a wing in a bush or in grass for the dog to find. On regaining its senses, the pigeon would fly when stirred. Mr. Bufkin uses a modification of this system, placing the bird in a well-concealed trap. When the dog comes to point, a string, usually pulled by another person some 50 yards behind the dog and handler, releases the trap, and the pigeon is liberated to gain its freedom or be shot.

When dogs are being taught to retrieve or steadied, the bird is killed. The same system may be used on pen-reared quail, but the gun is fired into the air for training purposes. Very few dogs refuse to point a pigeon, which may be bought for 25 or 30 cents.

While the setter or pointer is motionless before a bird, his form may be improved. His head and tail are raised for style, and even his body may be moved to the desired position. The check cord works in a similar manner; pulling back on the animal teaches him to "stand tall."

The check cord is the most used piece of training paraphernalia. It's widely used to encourage youngsters to point staunchly and obey commands, on those affected with gun shyness, and bolters; it is also used for teaching directions and for close work in the brush. A window-sash cord is ideal.

Much conversation between man and dog is NOT recommended. There are three chief commands: Whoa, come here, and close. Each has a definite and precise meaning and is easily learned by dogs. The command "close" is often accompanied by a soft whistle to let the dog know he is to look for a single or marked bird. The phrase "all right" may be used for encouragement purposes. "Whoa" means to stop, and "come here" is self-explanatory.

Mr. Bufkin uses a whistle principally as a coursing signal to let the dog know where his master is, so that he won't lose valuable hunting time returning to look for the trainer.

For best results the trainer should have the dog when he is six to eight months of age (or earlier if possible), in order to teach him the scent of game birds, thereby preventing false points and the pointing of non-game birds such as meadow larks and sparrows, or even grasshoppers.

Every trainer must take into consideration the fact that pups from the same litter are often as different from each other as those non-related. Every dog is an individual.

"There's something exhilarating, challenging and exciting about the smell of a game bird; however, a dog may be trained to point any specie of bird," Mr. Bufkin advised. "Game birds create a desire to hunt."

Regarding punishment, the experienced trainer stated that he had trained dogs which never required any more than a mere scolding. Many dogs may not be touched with a switch or flushing whip. Spiked collars are recommended for headstrong individuals because whipping will cause cowering while the collar makes a dog stand upright, most necessary in field trials.

A good field trial dog must be a good gun dog. Pointers and setters are bred primarily to bring out the best qualities in hunting dogs.

As for gun shyness, which is the worst habit a hunting dog can have, Mr. Bufkin recommends the use of pigeons in correcting this defect. The gun-shy dog is left on the picket line, a chain hooked to the dog's leash with a dog spaced about six feet apart, while others are working (all animals are tied to the picket line when not in actual training). He watches other dogs retrieving, strutting back with their birds, and he gets the idea that the explosion of the gun causes all this fun. When a gun is fired, all dogs on the picket line lunge forward, yelping joyously. The gun-shy dog soon begins associating guns with pleasure rather than with fear. Another method of correction is shooting a .410 gauge shotgun while the dog is afield, graduating to the larger bores.

"I shoot a .410 occasionally while the gun-shy dog ranges out, but never under any circumstances do I fire at a time when he will connect the report with the act of finding or pointing game. When and if he begins to show that he is losing his fear of the report, I use the shotgun more. I do NOT recommend the starvation cure—feeding the dog three times daily and shooting over his head at every meal; then, when he runs from the shot, taking his

Some of the quail which Bufkin raises to use in his training. He has about 1200 on hand now.

food away until he forgets about the loud noise and eats. Neither do I recommend the boat cure—taking the dog out in a boat, firing over his head, and letting him swim if he wants to. Some dogs are afraid of the water and will stand while the gun is being shot. The slow, patient way pays dividends in hunting and companionship, and about 90 percent of cases of gun shyness can be cured; still, it is easier to prevent than to cure."

Teaching a dog to retrieve is no task; most of it is natural. Start him at an early age (three to five months) with an object he likes to handle—something that is soft and easy to carry, like a rag doll or sponge ball, a corn cob or a piece of soft wood about 10 inches long. Use the word "fetch" and discontinue the workout when the puppy starts to lose interest. Always reward the retrieve with a few pats. "Force retrieving may be taught, but it takes much time and patience when the dog is eight to ten months old, and after he has had a couple of months of field work."

If an individual has plenty of birds, patience and know-how, he may train his own dog. Never rush any dog at first; a good dog cannot be made in two or three hunts. The greatest mistake made is "opening up over a puppy's head with two or three repeating shotguns."

Introduce the young dog to game. Take him where you know there is game and let him run and flush to his heart's content. If he shows a natural tendency to point, encourage him, but don't punish him immediately, because too much restraining may curb his desire. Don't try to direct him too much, and teach him to "whoa" by the use of the hands or a leash. He may not stand when a covey rises, so use the leash or cord to check him. After such experience, if he still breaks, take him back to the place where he committed the error and give him a few sharp—but not too severe—cuts across the back with the dog whip.

Pigeons are also used in training dogs to retrieve and to be steady to wing and shot.

While the dog is on point the trainer moves his head, tail, and body into a "stylish" position.

The check cord is the most used piece of training paraphernalia.

School is almost out for these four.

TENNESSEE ZEV

RAMBLIN' ROCK

A dog may be taught to whoa, heel, "come here," and retrieve in the yard. The more accomplished here, the less you'll have to teach in the field.

The handler who uses few commands usually has more success than the man who tries to use many, since the dog's ability to learn is limited. When directions are decided upon, they should always be given in the same words or tone of voice or whistle. A dog is believed to be able to recognize sounds, not words.

"My whistle signals," Mr. Bufkin said, "are limited to these three: 1) Two short blasts to send the dog on after a point or shot, to retrieve; if there's no kill, to proceed. 2) A long, loud note to attract the dog's attention so that his course may be changed in the field. Ride the horse or walk in the direction you want him to go. The same signal may be used for lost dogs. 3) A long, low note to call the dog to look for marked singles or dead birds. If he is to retrieve, the command, 'dead birds,' is added.

"Here are a few habits which can be broken if care is used and 'treatment' started early: **Rabbit chasing**—Call the dog in a businesslike manner as soon as he starts after a rabbit; dust him off lightly with the whip; however, I don't recommend whipping until he is eight to ten months of age. **False pointing**—Hunt young dogs with older, more experienced animals, and order the youngsters to go forward when you are sure there's no more game ahead. **Refusal to back or honor**—Use a spike collar, leading the dog into position where another is pointed; if he starts to advance, restrain him firmly and force him into backing position. **Breaking shot**—Use the check cord at first, and a spike collar on the habitual offender. Use both with care. **Bolting**, **blinking** and **crawling** may be cured with patience, time and care."

Paying tribute to the "boss of the kennels," the trainer modestly addded: "Any small success that I may have achieved, either with dogs or rehabilitation of quail, has been due in a very large measure to the efforts of Mrs. Bufkin, who puts a great deal of time and effort into the quail project, the raising of puppies, handling of books and records, and other phases of the operation."

Logic and simplicity aptly describe the method used by J. Earl Bufkin in training dogs for gun and field trials, which method may easily be adopted by the average hunting dog owner.

"Birds are greatly depleted, and the need for conservation is urgent. Not only must we have better and better dogs to provide us our quota of shooting, but we must also let the joy of watching our dogs do superior bird work supplant, to a degree, the more primitive pleasure of killing game," the well-known trainer concluded.

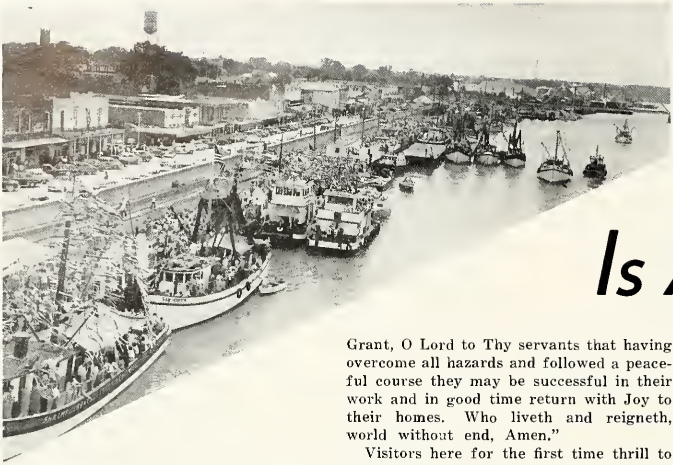
—THE END

Form at ten weeks.

A good breakaway is important in field trials.

LOUISVILLE SLUGGER

CANTWELL'S KEEP MOVIN'



Shrimp Boats Is A 'Comin'

The Seventeenth Annual Shrimp Festival and Blessing of the Fleet will be held in Morgan City on September 5 and 6. The combination of Labor Day weekend and the influx of shrimp trawlers at this port this year promises to multiply the number of boats as well as the number of visitors taking part in this colorful event.

The quaint custom of blessing the fishing boats which originated in the early ages of Christianity and was brought to south Louisiana by the Acadians, is performed in many coastal towns, but nowhere is it more impressive than on Berwick Bay, a wide and deep natural harbor in the Atchafalaya River, a short distance from the Gulf of Mexico. Here, all varieties of craft—launches, cruisers, work boats, tugs, towboats, converted war surplus vessels—all gaily decorated, join the picturesque shrimp trawlers to receive the blessing of the Catholic Church and later when they move out for the Grand March up and down the bay.

The religious services has meaning for men of all faiths who derive their living from the sea. The picture made by the clergy in their vestments and the alter boys in white surplices and red cassocks standing on the deck of the trawler circling the bay is inspiring as the humble prayers for protection and success. The significance of the occasion makes an indelible impression on every passenger on the boats and spectator on shore as the priest intones, in Latin, the following prayer: "Deign O Lord to hear our supplications and bless these boats with Thy Right Hand and all those who travel in them as Thou didst deign to bless the ark of Noah floating on the flood waters. Extend to them, O Lord, Thy Right Hand as Thou didst extend it to Blessed Peter walking on the sea, and send Thy Holy Angel from Heaven to free them and guard them ever from all dangers together with all those who are with them. Grant, O Lord to Thy servants that having overcome all hazards and followed a peaceful course they may be successful in their work and in good time return with Joy to their homes. Who liveth and reigneth, world without end, Amen."

Visitors here for the first time thrill to the panorama of holiday crowds and gaily bedecked boats. Everyone who wants to ride in the water parade is permitted to do so on this one day of the year. Passes are issued at the Information Booth and specially invited guests are ushered aboard "guest boats."

Gay, exciting events precede and follow the hours of prayer. These include speed boat races and a Coronation Ball in which a shrimp producer is King for a Day, ruling with a queen who has already been chosen in a highly competitive beauty contest; a street parade, contests, exhibits, a horse show, kiddie rides—all of the popular features are included in the two day entertainment program climaxed by the pageantry on the water Sunday morning.

The entire seafoods production shares the limelight, with the shrimp, in this colorful Festival. While the shrimp shipped from the Morgan City-Berwick-Patterson area contribute largely to the totals that make Louisiana the leading state in shrimp production, most of all the fresh water fish caught in the entire Gulf states section come from this same area and place Louisiana in the top ranks of the commercial fish-producing states.

The officers of the Louisiana Shrimp Festival and Fair Association for 1953 are: Lyn Fonteneau, President; Dr. C. R. Brownell, Vice-President; Jack Johanson, Secretary, and Mrs. Fannie Vidos, Treasurer.

The Festival queen is selected in a highly competitive beauty contest.

Fish Dieoffs Explained

by

Frank Coogan, Chief

Division of Research and Statistics

This late spring and early summer the State has been plagued with a series of fish mortalities of a serious nature, and steps have been taken to determine the cause or causes of these fish kills.

Fish, like all other living things, are subject to natural laws and die at the end of the normal species life span. But when fish die from other than natural causes, we are concerned and try to determine the cause of the mortality so that something might be done to help the fish live, if at all possible.

Aside from death from disease or old age, fish are much like other animals and can die for other reasons such as poisons, lack of oxygen, etc.

Poisoning or toxic acid action could be caused by such things as heavy metals, chromium, copper, lead, and especially the soluble salts of these metals. For instance 2.5 parts of cromate ion per million parts of water will kill or seriously disable fish living in such waters. Some other metallic salts are equally toxic. Organic chloride substitution insecticides such as DDT and toxephene are extremely toxic. As little as .003 parts per million of toxephene will kill fish.

Too much salt water will kill fresh water fish, especially if the change is abrupt. Fourteen thousand parts per million of chloride will kill adult blue gills.

pH is a way of expressing the acidity or alkalinity of water with values ranging from 1 to 14 being used. The low values are acid, 7 is neutral and values 8 to 14 indicate a basic condition. If values outside of the range 4.7 to 8.7 are found the fish are in danger of being killed.

The most common cause of fish mortality is the lack of dissolved oxygen in water. Various values have been given for the required amounts of dissolved oxygen necessary to sustain fish and other aquatic life under various conditions, such as these values by Moore.

THRESHOLDS OF DISSOLVED OXYGEN FOR FISH

Data After Moore[1]

Species	Summer		Winter	
	Lowest observed concentration at which fish survived for 24 hours	Highest observed concentration at which fish were killed in 24 hours	Lowest observed concentration at which fish survived for 48 hours	Highest observed concentration at which fish were killed in 48 hours
Pike	6.0 ppm.	3.1 ppm.	3.1 ppm.	2.3 ppm.
Black bass	5.5	3.1	4.7	2.3
Black crappie	5.5	4.2	1.5	1.4
Common sunfish	4.2	3.1	1.4	0.8
Yellow perch	4.2	3.1	4.7	1.5
Sunfish	3.3	3.1	3.5	0.8
Black bullhead	3.3	2.9	1.1	0.3
Median values	4.2 ppm.	3.1 ppm.	3.1 ppm.	1.4 ppm.

[1] Moore, W. G., "Field Studies of the Oxygen Requirements of Certain Freshwater Fishes," Ecology 23,319 (1942); Water Pollution Abs. 15, July (1952).

In Louisiana, under certain conditions, fish can survive with less oxygen than listed above but not for too long a time.

It is the last named condition, lack of oxygen, which has been responsible for most of the fish kills occurring throughout the state in the last 60 days.

It is believed that the lack of oxygen that has been found to be quite common in the streams and lakes of north Louisiana the past few weeks is caused by abnormal amounts of organic material dissolved and suspended in the water. It follows that this organic load must have been put into the water by some condition not normally encountered in the effected areas. This unusual or abnormal condition is the extremely high water levels that occurred during May and June of this year. Flood waters were common throughout the area and in some cases the water remained at flood stage for weeks. This flood water covered over a luxurious growth of vegetation for various lengths of time, usually long enough to kill the vegetation. The deadened growth in the presence of water at relatively high temperatures began to decay and the soluble decay products were picked up by the standing water. These decay products exert on the water a phenomenon called Biochemical Oxygen Demand (B.O.D.). This oxygen demand results from the metabolism requirements of certain bacteria, i. e., when feeding on the dissolved and suspended organic materials, there is, of necessity, a utilization of oxygen by these organisms.

The rate at which this oxygen demand is exerted depends on several factors. Probably the most important condition governing the rate of oxygen utilization is the water temperature—that is, the warmer the water, the faster the rate of oxygen uptake. The other important factor known to influence the oxygen consumption rate is the nature of the organic material subject to utilization by the bacteria. Some substances are much more easily assimilated than others and this again affects the use rate.

An industrial waste somewhat similar to the organic material coming from decaying vegetation is that waste resulting from a sodium hydroxide cock of aged bagasse, followed by bleaching.

This waste has a dark brown color, has a neutral pH, and is not itself toxic to fish. In a thirty day period this waste shows a B.O.D. of about 2000 ppm. The first days demand was about 200 parts per million, the five day demand was 800 parts per million, about 40 percent of the total.

Inasmuch as stream and lake water normally contains about 4 to 6 parts per million of dissolved oxygen it can be seen that a relatively high B.O.D. will remove most of the available oxygen thus resulting in a heavy fish mortality.

It should be realized that water which has been standing on pastures and other vegetation does not have as much organic material dissolved in it as the waste discussed above; it is only a matter of degree and the B.O.D. load will be high because of the large volume of water that contains this organic material.

I believe that the best and most recent example of extended fish mortality caused by naturally contaminated waters that has occurred in recent years happened in the Ouachita River in early July of this year.

I had been advised by Arkansas Water Pollution Control authorities that a fish kill had occurred in the Ouachita River at Camden, that it had been established that industrial wastes played no important role in causing the oxygen depletion, and that the poor condition of the river was expected to continue for sometime.

Several weeks later I received first reports of heavy fish kills in the river at Alabama Landing, just a few miles below the Arkansas line. I was told that the discharge of waste from a paper mill in Arkansas was causing this trouble but subsequent investigation by U. S. Public Health personnel on the river in Arkansas showed that the relatively high B.O.D. of the river extended some distance upstream and beyond the entry point of this paper mill waste. Actually, the fact was that the river was

(Concluded on next page)

Fishery Work on the Calcasieu

by

Victor Lambou and Robert Lafleur

The Calcasieu River is a typical Louisiana stream. It is narrow and swift in its upper reaches but widens considerably and becomes sluggish farther downstream. This lower part of the Calcasieu is soon due for a double-barrel working over by the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission. Two divisions of the commission (Research and Statistics and Fish and Game) plan to conduct intensive investigations on the river. The Division of Research and Statistics has already done considerable work on the upper Calcasieu and some preliminary work on the lower Calcasieu. This work included gathering of data of a chemical nature as a starting point in determining some of the characteristics of this stream. One of the reasons for the aforementioned is to determine what effects the discharge of certain industrial wastes have upon the stream. Examples of these wastes are oil field brines, meat processing plant wastes, treated domestic sewage, petroleum refinery discharges, and waste originating from alkali plants in the area.

At this time the Fish and Game Division is interested in making a survey of the lower Calcasieu in order to determine the nature of fish populations in the river. As it is impossible to count and catalogue all the fish in any large body of water, sampling methods will be used whereby only a small part of the fish population is counted and the total population estimated. A preliminary inspection of the river indicated that the lower Calcasieu is most adaptable to sampling methods employing chemical poisons. Accurately measured sample areas will be completely blocked off and poisoned. All the fish in the area will be recovered and sorted according to species and size. To determine what effects pollution has had on fish populations, portions of the stream free of pollution will be compared to those areas which are polluted. The number of fish present, the success of natural reproduction and growth rates will be compared. As a further check, fish populations in the Calcasieu will be compared to those of a similar Louisiana river which has comparable ecological conditions and which is absolutely free of pollution.

The results of this study will partly determine the nature of the work to be done by the Division of Research and Statistics.. Proposed investigations on the part of personnel of this division are as follows: Water samples will be taken and processed in order to obtain certain chemical data. The same procedure is also to be followed for mud samples to be collected in certain areas. In addition, and by far not the least important, there is to be a long-term survey on aquatic organisms (exclusive of fish) in an effort to determine what fish foods are present or absent, and to observe any seasonal or cyclic changes. At the same time, a comparision will be made of the results of the survey with stream biological conditions as they exist in a zone upstream free from any source of pollution, with zones of pollution, and downstream from these zones. It is expected that some correlation will be found between the biological and chemical data and the information gained from the fish census studies by the Fish and Game Division.

The Fish and Game Division has another reason for this survey. There are other factors besides pollution which can greatly affect fishing success. It is intended that other basic information will be obtained which, when properly evaluated, will serve as a basis for planning a constructive sport fish management program.

Any body of water can support only a certain amount of fish, be they sport or rough fish. The biologist measures fish production in pounds of fish per acre. The number of pounds of fish per acre is largely determined by the fertility of the water. However, no matter how many pounds of fish per acre are present, if they are not the kind desired by anglers, poor fishing will result. This survey will show how many game fish are present and in what proportion to the number of rough fish present. If there is an overabundance of rough fish, an attempt will be made to determine the cause and possible remedies for such a condition. It will also be possible to determine what and how many game fish are available to be harvested by sportsmen.

The survival of any species, whether fish or mammal, is dependent on its ability to reproduce itself. Therefore, the quality of the sport fishing in the Calcasieu is dependent to a large extent upon the ability of the game fish to reproduce themselves. The success of natural reproduction of game fish in the Calcasieu will be determined, and if possible the factors controlling the success of this reproduction will be determined also.

Scales will be obtained from some of the fish. Fish scales can tell a very important story to the biologist. As a fish grows, scale material is deposited in concentric rings whose size varies from time to time. Examination of scales reveals the age of the fish and the growth it has made each each year since hatching. The results of the growth study will determine whether or not the growth rates are satisfactory for the game fish in the Calcasieu.

Yes, it is true that the Calcasieu is in for a thorough going over. This is good news for the numerous fishermen who frequent this stream. The Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission intends to find out what is taking place in this river and to take the necessary steps to insure better fishing for you on the Calcasieu.

—THE END

"A duck just can't hold his liquor!" officer Dugan Bresnehen, of Vinita, Oklahoma, declares.

The officer recently arrested a woman and her pet duck for being drunk. Both were drinking when arrested in a Vinita beer tavern. "The woman wasn't in such bad shape," Bresnehen said, "but the duck couldn't stand up!"

FISH KILLS—concluded . . .

(Continued from page 7)

full of organic material and the oxygen depletion was caused by the entry of more high B.O.D. water from Coon Bayou and by mixing in the river caused by a choke in the channel in the vicinity of Alabama Landing. This mixing brought water, devoid of oxygen, up from the lower depths of the river and the fish, which were living in the top two or three feet, could not get a sufficient supply of oxygen and died.

Other kills of this type occurred throughout the state, in the Bodcau, Wallace Lake, Tensas River, Bayou Louise, Bayou Lafourche, Boeuf River, Bayou Louis, Lake Louis, Pearl River, Calcasieu River, Atchafalaya Basin, Bayou Manchac, Bayou Choctaw, and probably other places that have not been reported.

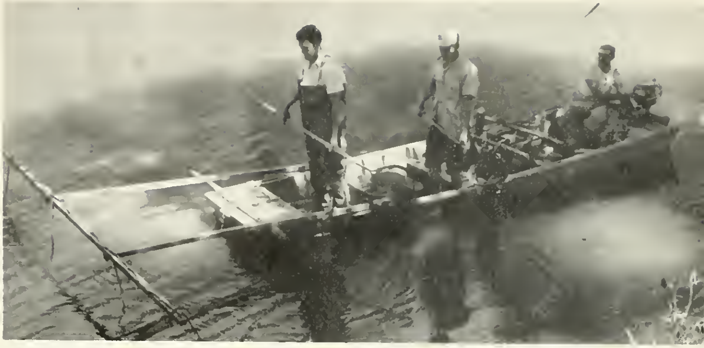
This natural phenomenon will be investigated by personnel from the Division of Research and Statistics and the Fish and Game Division who will try to learn more about this unhappy condition.

—THE END

Fish Inventory Methods

by

Victor Lambou



Electric screens, which temporarily stun fish in its field, are one method of sampling fish populations.

Mo. Conservation Comm. photo.

In order to manage any resource successfully, it is necessary to take count of your stock. On a ranch all of the cattle are rounded up, counted and branded. However, in our aquatic pastures it is a much more complicated procedure. It is impossible to count and catalogue all the fish in a lake or stream. How then can we take stock of our fish?

Aquatic biologists in this country have worked out a very efficient way to do this. It differs from the rancher's method in that only a small part of the population in the lake or stream is counted. Yet by this method accurate estimates of the total population can be made. That may be hard to believe; yet it is true. It works this way: Suppose that we had a 1,000-acre pasture, all of it alike, and the stock spread evenly over the whole area. All we would have to do would be to count the stock on one acre and multiply by 1,000, and we would have the total number on the whole pasture. It is as simple as that, except that a lake or stream is not homogenous. Therefore, we have to take a larger sample to get an accurate picture. Nevertheless, this sample is still a very small percent of the total area of the lake or stream.

How can we count all the fish in even one area of water? Aquatic biologists have developed electrical devices and chemical poisons which are very effective for sampling fish populations. By means of electrical devices, fish are stunned temporarily, the data is recorded, and the fish are then returned unharmed to the water. This is most effective on small to medium size streams. However, the majority of our waters are not suited to this type of sampling. For these conditions, biologists have developed a chemical poison which is deadly to fish but completely safe to use, since it is harmless to warm-blooded animals such as dogs, cats, birds, cattle and man. It will kill only fish, and leave them perfectly safe for human consumption.

An area of approximately two to three acres is surrounded with fine mesh netting in order than no fish can leave or enter. The poison, in an emulsified form, is spread evenly over the surface and is mixed thoroughly with the water by churning it with an outboard motor. If the water is deep, the poison is pumped down to the bottom. Within a matter of minutes, the fish begin to show signs of distress and can be picked up with a dip net. All the fish are dead within several hours. Some do not come to the surface immediately, but these bloat and are floating by the next day.

All fish in the sample are sorted according to species and size, and are then counted and weighed. Scales are removed from the fish, and by these the biologist can tell how old the fish are and how fast they are growing. It is from this data that a biologist can learn what is going on in our lakes, including: the total population of fish; what part of the population is made up of rough fish; how many game fish are present and in what proportion; how fast these are growing; whether or not they are reproducing themselves successfully, and what species and how many are available for harvesting by the angler.

Will this removal of a part of the population of a lake or stream be harmful? No, not when you consider how small a part of the total population is sampled. For instance, we want to sample a lake approximately three miles long and one mile wide. This would be a total of three square miles of water. There are 640 acres to one square mile, so this lake has a total of 1,920 acres. If this is a normal lake, it has possibly 400 pounds of fish per acre, or a total of 768,000 pounds of fish. To sample this lake, we might take three samples of three acres each, or a total of nine acres. At 400 pounds of fish to the acre, we would kill 3600 pounds of fish. This seems like a lot of fish, yet it is less than one half of one percent of the total population and would have no effect on fishing success.

Electrical and chemical methods of sampling fish populations are of great value. It is only through these means that biologists can find out exactly what is happening in our lakes and streams and organize a wise and workable management plan for our valuable fisheries resources.

—THE END

Fisheries biologists are shown here using chemical spray to sample fish population of Cane River.

—Photo by Gresham.

All fish in the sample are weighed and measured.

—Photo by Gresham.

The L-C Treatment of Venomous Bites or Stings

Copyright 1953 by Herbert L. Stahnke

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The so-called "cut-and-suction" treatment when used on venomous stings is not very effective. This fact we learned at an early date in our experiences with poisoning caused by the two lethal scorpions of the Southwest, i.e., **Centruroides sculpturatus** Ewing and **C. gertschi** Stahnke. During a twenty year period in Arizona, these two animals were responsible for more than twice as many deaths as all other venomous animals put together, including rattlesnakes, black widow spiders, Gila monsters, and venomous insects (Stahnke, 1949). In our first observations on the effect of rattlesnake venom, we were shocked at the suffering that patients had to undergo even though the best known treatments were administered. Out of these experiences grew the treatment now known as the L-C method, i.e., ligature and cryotherapy.[1]

In treating a patient for venom poisoning two forces must be taken into consideration, the chemical effect of the toxin on the animal tissue and the harmful action of bacteria possibly introduced by the bite or sting. If both of these are introduced in small enough quantities, the natural defensive forces of the body can neutralize their effects. Obviously, then, when treating an individual for venom poisoning, one should seek to **prevent the rapid spread of the venom through the body.** The L-C method takes into account the above facts.

The L-C Treatment

Suppose that a person is stung or bitten by a venomous animal on one of the extremities, for example, the tip of the finger. The following immediate action should then be taken:

1. Place a ligature (a tight tourniquet) **at once** between the site of the bite or sting and the body, but **as near the point of entrance** of the venom as possible. A heavy piece of string or shoe-lace will serve very well as a ligature. A handkerchief, bandage, or necktie is not very suitable but will be better than nothing. The ligature can be made by wrapping the string three or four times around the finger and then inserting a small stick, nail, or other object into one of the loops which should then be twisted to the point of pain. **Do not make any incision at this time at the site of the bite or sting.** (Read step 5.)

2. Now place a piece of ice on the site while preparing a suitable vessel of crushed ice and water. If ethyl chloride is available, it will be more effective to use this. Be sure to spray it on only to the point of frost formation. Then allow the frost to melt before spraying again. Keep up this

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[1] The science or art of healing by means of cold or low temperature.

intermittent spraying until the finger, or area, is thoroughly chilled.

3. Place the entire hand in the iced water that has been prepared. If the individual was bitten by a large rattlesnake, the arm, up to the elbow, should be placed in the iced water. In general, immerse the member bitten or stung in the iced water **well beyond the location of the ligature.**

4. After the hand, or arm, has been in the iced water for not less than five minutes or more than ten minutes, the **ligature must be removed,** but the hand, or arm, is kept in the iced water for at least two hours. If the attacking animal is one of the two deadly scorpions, no serious effects will be experienced after this time. For the Gila monster, six to seven hours was found necessary. For rattlesnakes, Copperheads, Cottonmouth Moccasins, or other pit vipers, the time element will depend on the size of the attacking animal. At least six hours will be necessary in order to prevent serious destruction of tissue. If it is a large rattlesnake, between four and five feet long, the patient may have to be treated for fourteen to twenty hours. During this time, **it is extremely important that the patient be kept warm,** so that circulation through all parts of the body, except the poisoned member, be excellent. If the individual is bitten or stung on an area other than the extremities, a large ice pack of finely crushed ice may be used. Again, if ethyl chloride is available, the temperature of the involved tissue can be reduced more quickly. This is extremely important in order to prevent the chemical action of the venom as well as its spread throughout the body. The sooner the temperature can be reduced, the more quickly can the action of the venom be controlled, as well as the action of harmful bacteria that may have been introduced into the wound at the time of its injection. If ethyl chloride is used, an area of approximately three inches around, and including the site of the bite or sting, can be sprayed, taking care not to freeze the tissue. This, as stated previously, can be accomplished by spraying only to the point of frost formation. After this has disappeared, the process should be repeated. When the area has become thoroughly chilled, it can be held in that condition with an ice pack. In the case of snake poisoning, if the swelling has advanced beyond the site of the bite, the entire appendage should be immersed in iced water or packed in crushed ice well above the area of swelling.

It is very important that the pain experienced during the first five minutes, or so, of treatment with ice or ethyl chloride should not be confused with the action of the venom. Likewise, there is no danger of frostbite where iced water alone is used. Obviously, one must not add salt to the water. When going into wild country the camper, hunter, scientist, or cattleman can carry several metal tubes of ethyl chloride to be used in place of ice. If the procedure outlined above is followed, one tube can be made to last about thirty minutes. Thus, two tubes, under normal conditions, would give sufficient time to get to ice and/or a physician.

5. If the bite has been caused by a large rattlesnake of around five feet, an incision and suction at the site of each fang mark will be helpful. This should not be done, however, until after the site of the bite has been chilled for about thirty minutes. Even then it would be wiser to have a physician do it. The usual criss-cross cut over each fang puncture should not be made even though generally advocated. In order to do real good, it is important to get to the pocket of venom. Since the fang is curved, criss-cross cuts at the site of the fang puncture do not accomplish the desired result. A cut beginning slightly above the site of puncture and extending down and in the direction of penetration, will reach the pocket of venom. After this has been accomplished, suction will be beneficial in removing some of the venom. Before making the cut, however, be sure that the cutting instrument and the surface to be cut are thoroughly sterilized.

Benefits of the L-C Method

Venom action is chemical action. For every 10°C. rise in temperature, chemical activity is doubled; the opposite is likewise true. Furthermore, most venoms have an enzyme-like action. Generally, in order for these chemicals to act in the body to their fullest extent, the temperature should be at least 30°C. A hand kept in iced water will have its temperature dropped from the normal body temperature of 37°C. to about 4 to 7°C. Obviously, then, the chemical activity at the site of the injection is practically nil.

The chemical action of venom in the body becomes harmful only when the natural defenses of the body are overwhelmed. The ligature holds the venom at the site of injection until the temperature of that region can be dropped. This lowered temperature causes the tissues to contract and the capillaries and arterioles to constrict. Thus the venom is so held that it will enter the body very slowly and will be distributed throughout the body in an extremely dilute condition—too dilute to cause untoward effects.

Harmful bacteria are introduced with the bite of rattlesnakes and other biting venomous animals. In the presence of the venom and the normal body temperature these organisms thrive. When the body temperature is reduced by approximately 30°C., these organisms cannot multiply. In addition to this, the bacteria that are present enter the body proper in such small numbers and weakened condition, that the body defenses may readily destroy them.

In addition to the above, we also have the benefit of the anesthetic action of the cold. Thus, the usual pain experienced by the injection of rattlesnake venom, scorpion venom and others, is not experienced. Also, ample time is provided for administering antitoxin where such is available. Where a horse serum is used, this is very important since the patient must first be tested for sensitivity. Should the patient prove to be sensitive, he must then go through the process of de-sensitization. During this period of time, the individual is protected against the onslaught of the venom. Not least, it is important to realize that death can be prevented with the L-C treatment alone if sufficient time is given for its use.

Things NOT To Do

Certain common practices frequently work against otherwise good therapeutic practices. A review of the principles given will help to show why the following practices are undesirable.

1. If the offending animal was not seen, do not stop to look for it. At least apply the ligature before the search is made. Or, if several members are in the party, let some one else do the searching. First attention should be given to prevent the spread of the venom.

2. Do not excite the patient or yourself. This works against the principle that you are trying to apply. Through information and understanding, bolster your own emotions. Children should be trained away from fear. It should be replaced with respect. At no time should fear be replaced by foolhardiness or bravado.

3. Do not make an incision at the site of the bite or sting unless some good can be accomplished. Benefit can only be derived when the quantity of venom is large. Remember, there is always a danger of additional infection in making an incision.

4. In the case of scorpion sting, never use Morphine or Demerol. First of all they are not needed. Secondly, they will actually hasten death.

5. Do not use hot packs. Heat dilates blood vessels and speeds up circulation. Thus the venom would be allowed to go into the body more rapidly. Hot packs should only be used when an increased circulation of the blood is desired through a given area.

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Stahnke, H. L. 1949a. Op. cit., pp. 19-21.

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SHRIMP PRODUCTION UP

Louisiana's shrimp production in 1953 has already exceeded the 1952 total by 1,551,127 pounds. The 1952 total reached 35,583,366 pounds while 37,134,636 pounds were recorded to June 30 of this year.

For the past two years, 1951 and 1952, shrimp production in the Pelican state has been in the aggregate of 84,000,000 pounds, the highest since 1946. It is likely that the 1953 harvest will exceed 100,000,000 pounds, according to revenue supervisor Bill Werlla.

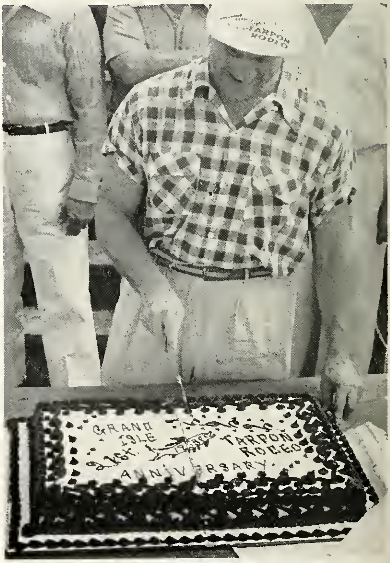
Shrimp fishermen were paid more than $19,000,000 for their catch in 1951-52. Prices, prior to the June 21-August 10 closed season in "inside" waters, averaged about $75 a barrel, with a top of $133 for "jumbo" shrimp.

Sharks are often taken on lures trolled for game fish.

Grand Isle Tarpon Rodeo

Photos by Gresham

The official weighing station was the center of activities.

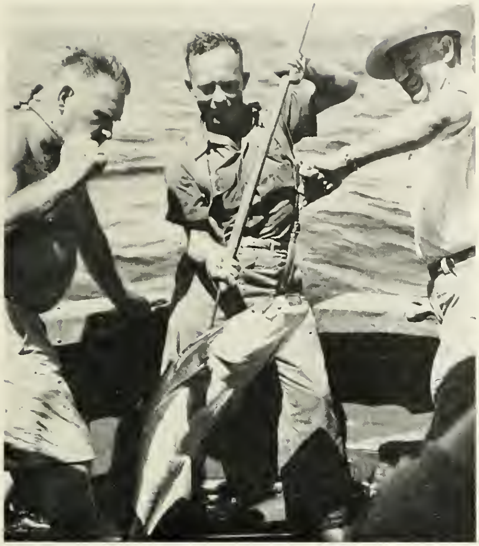


"Little Monk" Simon cut the cake at Lafitte to start the rodeo fleet on its way to Grand Isle.

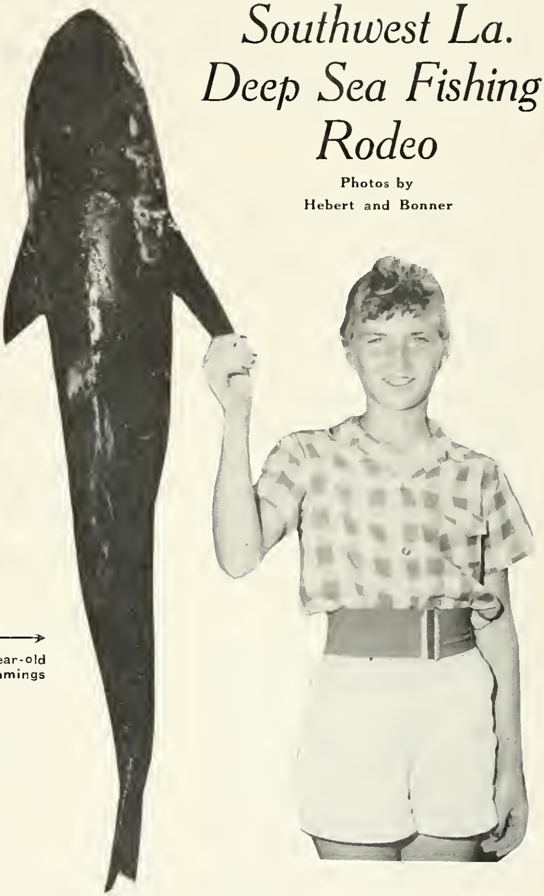
Many flag-bedecked rodeo boats found 'fishin' the rigs' produc

Southwest La. Deep Sea Fishing Rodeo

Photos by
Hebert and Bonner

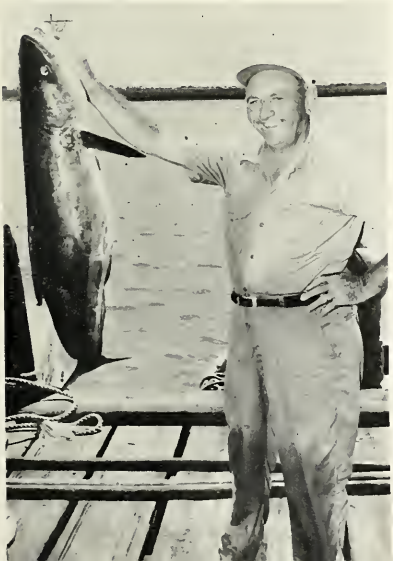


Taking no chances with this third place cobia are (left to right) George McNess, R. J. Savant and M. J. Waguespack, Jr., all of Lake Charles.



Sixty-pound, 11-year-old Miss Rae Dein Cummings with her 36-lb. cobia.

W. J. "Bill" Cleveland, Crowley, is just a wee bit happy about his 41-lb. first-place cobia.



DEER IN LOUISIANA

PART III

by

Raymond Moody, Lyle St. Amant and Carrol Perkins

In two previous articles we have discussed the past and present status of deer in Louisiana, outlining briefly the methods by which the information was gathered and giving an estimate of the present and future, or potential deer populations.

In this last article we would like to discuss further the future of deer, showing how the rate of increase can be accelerated and how to deal with the problems that will arise as the result of large populations of deer.

It was previously stated that Louisiana contains approximately 8.4 millions of acres of deer range, 4.8 millions of which contain few or no deer at all. Therefore one of the first objectives of the deer management program in Louisiana is to establish deer on these depleted areas.

It has been proved in Louisiana and other southeastern states that deer can be re-established on depleted range simply by restocking and protection. For the past number of years the State of Louisiana has been carrying on a deer trapping operation in which deer are trapped in areas of high population and released in the sparsely populated sections of the deer range. At present plans are being made to enlarge this deer trapping operation and thus speed up the restocking of the depleted range. Working agreements have been made with certain landowners in Madison and Tensas Parishes whereby the State is permitted to trap and remove a certain number of female deer each year. Deer will also be trapped on the state-controlled game management areas.

During the past year a total of 177 deer were trapped and released in this state. This trapping program will be accelerated until a total of 300 to 400 deer are released annually on suitable range. At this rate the entire state should be amply restocked within the next five years.

Preliminary investigations will be made by a game technician to determine the suitability of an area for release. Only areas of ample size and suitable range will be selected. Each release area must also be approved by a federal inspector as the deer trapping operation is a Federal Aid project. The local police jury must pass a resolution stating that it favors the closing of the area specified to deer hunting for a period of not less than five years following the final release of deer. Another important factor to be considered in the selection of an area is the general attitude of the public toward a deer release. It has been found that the success or failure of any restocking depends largely upon the sentiment of the people living in that vicinity. In most cases the local game rangers will be responsible for the protection of released deer.

It is virtually assured that, with the continuance of the present deer management program, most of Louisiana's "huntable" deer range will contain large numbers of deer within the next ten years.

It is easy to visualize that in the future certain problems will arise from high populations of deer in Louisiana. First, we may be sure that in intensively farmed areas we will have considerable crop damage. Already in Madison and Tensas Parishes deer seriously damage the crops each year. Not only do they damage field crops such as soybeans, corn and peas, but also truck crops, cover crops and winter pasture. This may always be expected whenever the deer populations pass the normal carrying capacity of the timber lands and are forced to supplement their diet by feeding on farm and pasture lands.

A second problem that will be associated with high deer populations is the danger of contagious disease and parasites. Many diseases, such as Anthrax and hoof and mouth disease, may be transmitted from deer to domestic livestock.

Destruction of forest reproduction is a third important problem. As previously mentioned, browse (leaves and tender twigs of certain shrubs and trees) makes up the bulk of the deer diet. It is easy to understand that whenever deer become too numerous certain species of shrubs and trees which are preferred by deer will become scarce or even disappear from the range. In some instances this may mean a loss to the forester of valuable timber reproduction.

An additional problem to be expected is the detrimental effect of overpopulation on the deer themselves. It is a known fact that deer, unlike most other animals, usually will not leave their "home range" in search of food. Consequently as the deer herd increases the food supply diminishes and the deer begin to suffer from malnutrition, leaving them easy prey to disease and parasites. Also the rate of reproduction is slowed down and the antler size decreased, thus leaving fewer legal bucks for the hunter to harvest.

Since overpopulation intensifies all of the above mentioned problems, one of the most important phases of deer management is to prevent overpopulation of the deer range. Whenever the deer population in Louisiana reaches such proportions the only logical method of reducing the deer herd is to have an all deer season, that is, to legalize the killing of both does and fawns. This will undoubtedly go against the grain of most deer hunters since many consider it unsportsman-like to kill anything but bucks. However, it has been definitely shown in several other states that legalized killing of does is the only satisfactory method of reducing large populations of deer to the range carrying capacity. Although the deer situation in Louisiana won't require an all deer season for a number of years, it is hoped that when that time comes that the sportsmen will prefer to legalize the killing of does in preference to having large numbers of deer suffer from malnutrition or starve to death on the range.

Another problem that might be mentioned at this time is the widespread use of dogs for deer hunting. The use of dogs in hunting deer enhances the enjoyment of this excellent sport and definitely should not be discouraged. It is evident that in certain areas of Louisiana deer can be hunted with dogs and still continue to increase as long as the game laws are observed. However these areas must contain refuges or some other means of escape for

Whenever deer in Louisiana reach the overpopulation point the only logical way to reduce the deer herd is to legalize the taking of both sexes. When, and if, this time comes, sportsmen should be ready to accept this sound management practice rather than have animals die of malnutrition and starvation. —*Photo by Morgan*

the deer, otherwise too many bucks will be taken annually and the buck-doe ratio (optimum for breeding is 1 or more bucks to 5 does) become distorted. The study of deer in Louisiana also indicate that in certain other localities, such as the upland pine lands, the continued use of hounds for hunting deer makes it virtually impossible to re-establish deer in large numbers. Therefore it is thought that in an intelligent deer management program certain parishes should prohibit the use of dogs in deer hunting.

Although a lot of basic information has been gathered on deer, there is still much to be learned through research about our Louisiana deer. Our present deer trapping program affords an excellent opportunity for certain phases of this research. This information will not only help make a more efficient trapping operation but will also aid in planning a management program in the future.

The biologists in charge of the trapping operation record data on general weather conditions, such as temperature, barometric pressure, wind direction and velocity, and rainfall. All trapped deer are eartagged and information is recorded on the deer's age, weight, sex, physical condition, place of release, and in the case of adult bucks, the number of points and the size of the antlers.

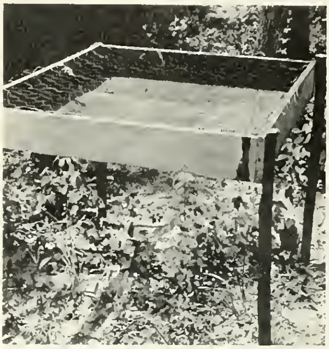
An intensive study of deer food conditions is another type of research that has been conducted for several years. In this study a large number of sample plots are selected annually throughout the deer range. Records are kept as to the various species of trees and shrubs present on each plot and the extent to which deer are feeding on each species.

Along with these deer browse investigations, the mast production of certain species of oaks is being studied to determine the value of the various oaks as producers of deer food. The results of these investigations will enable the game technician to determine the number of deer that any area will support.

In conclusion, it may be stated that since deer respond very readily to intelligent management, the Louisiana deer hunter can expect far better hunting in the future than he has ever experienced in the past.

—THE END

Some parishes will find it necessary to prohibit the use of dogs in deer hunting in order to re-establish large populations.



This acorn trap is part of the program of determining the mast production of certain species of oaks, thus their value (or lack of it) in furnishing food for wildlife.

—*Photo by Gresham.*

Deer enclosures such as this one are designed to determine the effects of a given number of deer on the available food within the enclosure.

—*Photo by Gresham.*

All of the deer research being done in Louisiana is for one purpose—to make more big bucks like these available to the hunter.

" Dear Mr. Fish and Wildlife Service "

August 6, 1953

Director
U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service
Washington, D. C.

Dear Sir:

We have received the migratory bird regulations approved July 23, 1953.

Since the mourning dove is such an important game bird in Louisiana and the entire Southeast, we feel the Fish and Wildlife Service should give more attention to the scientific facts that were gathered during the last four years through the cooperative dove study. As you are no doubt aware, the ten (10) Southeastern States spent approxinately $300,000.00 as direct cost in gathering the best management data available and many thousands of dollars indirectly in assisting in this study. Louisiana alone has spent approximately $100,000.00. This study was encouraged and after submitted for Federal Aid approval, it was approved by the Fish and Wildlife Service. The reason the study was needed as outlined in the perspective of the preliminary project statement are, "There has been much controversy over certain points which affect the regulation of dove hunting. The argument concerns chiefly the opening dates of the shooting seasons, and the duration of the seasons in different areas." The objectives of the work plan, a part of the document, as approved are, "To study dove movements, breeding reactions, population densities and distribution, and hunting effects. *To recommend proper management and hunting regulations based on the resulting data.* To present the data in periodic reports and in final publications to inform cooperative States and the public." The objectives of Job E as approved in the work plan by the Fish and Wildlife Service states, "*To formulate a state policy and technique for management of the mourning dove, inclusive of hunting regulations.*" We believe the intentions of the Fish and Wildlife Service and the States while this project was in the planning stage was clear, that is, information would be gathered and then future management would be based on this data.

The Progress Report of the Cooperative Study from August 1948 until June 30, 1953 has been received. In analyzing the data gathered in Louisiana and those presented in the above-mentioned report, we believe the Fish and Wildlife Service has ignored the findings of the Cooperative Dove Study and the recommendations made by the States.

Based on the Cooperative Study and substantiated by the work undertaken in Louisiana, the following facts are set forth for consideration:

1. The hunter is responsible for less than 20 percent of the annual mortality.
2. Eighty percent of the doves do not live to be one year.
3. There is an unknown annual mortality of more than 50 percent, a part of which could be harvested by the hunter.
4. The fall population is dependent upon the success of the breeding season.
5. That far more birds are present after the hunting season ends than are needed to replace any reasonable fall population.
6. The heaviest mortality is during the late summer and early fall.
7. The hunter kills only a very small number of breeding adults during September seasons.
8. That more than 90 percent of the bag during the September season are birds of the year.
9. That there is no differential in the shooting of age classes.
10. That the dove population is made up of distinct segments.
11. These segments are consistent in their movements regardless of food supply, weather, hunting pressure or other factors.
12. That few sportsmen travel far to hunt doves.
13. That the average daily bag is only about five birds.
14. There has been no material change in the overall dove population during the last 30 years.
15. There has been a wide dispersion of doves due to changing agricultural practices in the Southeast.
16. That production rate, nest mortality and other factors that influence populations have not changed materially.
17. That factors adversely affecting the production and population of doves are infrequent and short in duration.
18. That temporary fluctuation in the dove population is stabilized following one year of normal production.
19. That late hunting has a more detrimental effect on the dove than September shooting.

When analyzing the above facts it is evident that the resource is not being adequately utilized. In other words, the unsound and unnecessary restrictions placed on the dove hunter do not permit him to harvest a sufficient number of doves to keep a large part of the population from dying of natural causes, which benefits no one. There was no evidence based on a half million dollar study that the present restrictions are saving doves, nor is there any data to support such stringent restrictions if more birds need to be carried over to the breeding season.

To permit the sportsmen to more fully utilize the resource and enjoy the sport of dove shooting, we believe the Fish and Wildlife Service should put into effect the recommendations listed below:

1. Once and for all set a hunting season framework between September 1 and January 15 throughout the country.
2. Permit the States to select the season within this framework based on the annual harvestable population.
3. Let the States select a continuous or split season of two periods if they choose.
4. The State should be allowed to choose a split season of unequal length periods. There is no valid reason why each period must be equal in length.
5. There should be no penalty for a split season.
6. There is no valid reason to prohibit zoning, therefore, zoning should be permitted. It should be limited to two zones per State and be based on ecological and physiographical regions. The study shows that few hunters will travel far to shoot doves, therefore, very few or no more doves will be killed under zoning.
7. Increase the bag to at least 10 birds and more if the facts indicate that additional birds can be harvested.
8. Increase the length of the season. The present bag or season does not permit adequate harvesting.
9. Permit all day shooting. There is no reason to believe it will hurt the dove population, and it discriminates against many sportsmen.

The requests mentioned above are designed to give the Louisiana sportsmen the same opportunity to enjoy dove hunting as given hunters in certain other States. We see no reason why Illinois, Missouri and parts of Texas should be allowed all day shooting and those States in the Central Flyway including Texas be given two additional birds if it is poor management to allow the same in Louisiana. We believe the facts will show that Illinois and Missouri kill as many or more birds than Louisiana and probably many other Southwestern States. Why should those hunters be favored over ours? I have heard arguments that there is less gunning pressure on birds in the Central Flyway than in the Eastern part of the United States. We would like to see the facts on which you have based your assumptions. We have definite proof that the bulk of the doves passing through Louisiana go into Texas. Why should the people in Texas be given a full day and two extra birds to shoot the birds we Louisiana hunters are permitted to shoot only during the afternoon?

. . . We have good information that has proved beyond reproach that we are not properly managing the dove. We demand that the data be used and quit "dilly dallying" around using guesses as you have in the past.

Very truly yours,
GEO. C. MOORE, *Chief*
Fish and Game Division

M'sieur Cricket

by

Gwen Kirtley Perkins

The crickets are conducting their annual summer concert series in Louisiana in a vast, state-wide bandstand. These musicians can be heard tuning up at dusk, and when the evening sun goes down they really get in the groove. All night long they play their nocturne, and when the dawn yawns in the east, they can still be heard strumming their theme song. Some crickets seem to play on the day shift, but perhaps these are practicing for the next performance.

Crickets are natural born musicians, as they come equipped with a built in ear for music installed just below the front knee joint. They come from a musical family, Orthoptera, and their relatives are all noted for their tonal talents. Crickets are the concert-masters, conducting the orchestra with their "file and scraper," special organs on their wings. Locusts play by rubbing their wings together and cousin katydid rubs his hind leg over a front wing.

The temperature of the summer night determines the tempo of the cricket's song. Scientists say you can tell how hot the weather is by counting how fast the cricket plays.

In Asia the Chinese and Japanese have gone all out for cricket singing, keeping them in fancy cages like we do canaries and parakeets. Cricket fights are as popular in those countries as a heavyweight championship is in America. The average price for a male fighter cricket (just an ordinary kind of field cricket) ranges from $50.00 to $100.00, with one famous cricket, "Ghengis Khan," winning as much as $90,000.00 in one bout.

This versatile genius of a cricket is closely related to the grasshopper, locust, katydid, praying mantis, and the black sheep of the Orthoptera family, the cockroach. He occupies no position of great economic importance, but like the poor, we seem to have him with us always and everywhere.

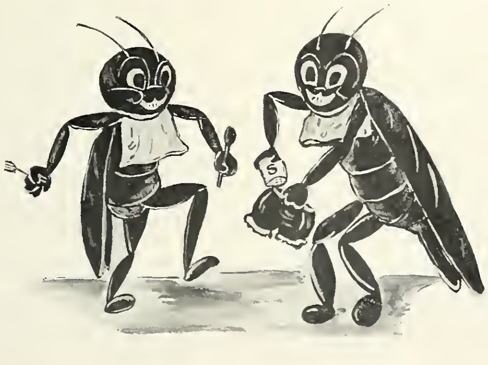
Crickets are found in every country of the world with the exception of the polar regions. They are generally associated with the field and wayside, but they have taken over the land, the sea and the air. Usually they live in cracks and holes in the ground, but some take to the trees like Tarzan while others can be found living near water where they have been observed swimming and diving. They are all-around athletes . . . jumping, flying, swimming and digging. An African variety burrows down into the earth to a depth of from three to four feet.

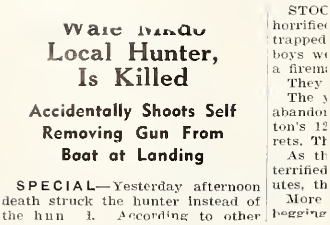
The Louisiana cricket has probably attained his greatest renown as fish bait (ask any school boy), but the "cricket on the hearth" of literary fame has prejudiced the public into accepting the cricket as a harmless, happy-go-lucky fellow. Having a cricket in the house was supposed to be as lucky as a rabbit's foot. But is the cricket all that he's cracked up to be?

Last year many Louisianians began noticing new holes appearing in their clothes. Ants, moths, taxes, and Democrats were being blamed, but the culprit was finally found to be our former friend, the cricket. Remember, he is close kin to the locust, the scourge of the centuries. The cricket appetite is normally for things vegetative, but when food becomes scarce (as it would when cricket populations become too concentrated) the cricket will turn to other diets, consuming animal matter and even turning cannibal and eating other crickets. Small wonder that they have begun to eat the clothes out of our closets. The crickets at our house seem to savor striped T shirts; they like the relatives' underwear; they relish the neighbors' sox and shoe linings; and a downtown clothing store reports that they ate up all of the profit.

On guard, Louisianians. Arm yourselves with well-filled spray guns. Be not deceived by the blarney of the bandit in the black bandsuit.

—THE END





Local Hunter,
Is Killed

Accidentally Shoots Self
Removing Gun From
Boat at Landing

SPECIAL—Yesterday afternoon death struck the hunter instead of the hun[illegible]. According to other

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it CAN happen to YOU!

by
Claude Gresham

The Senator, positive now that the dogs had turned his way, got up off the stump and backed up against the big gum, automatic cradled across the crook of his left arm. An old story, this, but still one that set his southern blood to pounding. No matter how many deer he killed the thrill would still be there.

Clearer now, a sure sign that the pack had broken out of the cypress brake and were crossing the ridge. That meant that the deer, running well in front of the hounds, should be within quarter of a mile of the Senator's stand. He slipped the safety off and faced the open crossing at ready position. Any time now! The pack was close enough for their frenzied chop-barks to fill the very swamp around the hunter. Still no buck! Suddendly, just as the lead dog burst into the clearing fifty yards out front, he heard the crash of brush—behind him!

"Slipped around me, the old rascal", he thought as he spun with the precision and ease of years of practice. The slim tube of the twelve gauge rose perfectly in line with the flash of brown behind the greenbriar vine just as the butt hit his shoulder—and bucked back hard, once, twice. A feeble thrashing in the leaves left no doubt that the two loads of double ought buckshot had found their mark, and the Senator called the dogs in as he walked over.

Perhaps you've guessed by now that what the Senator found lying beyond the bush wasn't the lordly stag he hoped for. Nor was it even a doe, which it could well have been. No, none of these. This hunter of long experience found the slug-riddled body of his best friend, the man he had left two hours earlier at a stand further down the ridge.

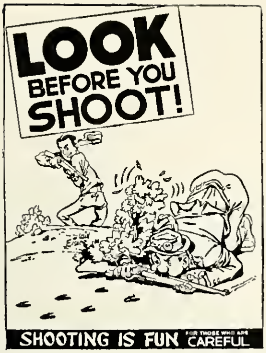
You might say that it served the victim right. He should never have left his stand. And you'd be right—at least about the last part. But the man's still dead. And the Senator will never hunt again.

Then there's the case of the duck hunter. He cursed the meager bag limit of four on his way out to the blind that morning, but still lacked one of filling out when they picked up the blocks at quittin' time. So he didn't unload on the way in, hoping for that last sprig or mallard. No soap, so the gun was still loaded when he reached into the boat for it after jumping out at the landing to tie up. The muzzle was naturally the handiest thing to grab, sticking over the bow like it was. And the undertaker naturally grumbled at the job he had, 'cause all you hunters know what a mess a load of No. 6's through the stomach will do.

Or that misty morning a couple years back when Jim gum-shoed through the bottom on opening day of the squirrel season. Perfect day—quiet underfoot and no wind. Day was just breaking and visibility not too good, but his trained eyes easily spotted the movement of the gray flattened against the trunk of the hickory some three feet above the ground. Jim held the sights hard against the side of the tree and squeezed it off. Seems odd that the barely audible "spat" of the .22 short could have been associated with the body that rolled out from behind the tree.

These cases weren't plucked out of thin air, my friend; they were plucked out of the files. Yes, it CAN happen to you.

Since 1950 the National Rifle Association has been hard at work gathering statistics on firearm accidents throughout the United States. Although hunting is one of the safest of sports many of the injuries and fatalities that DO occur could be avoided by the use of a little common sense. The Association has gathered this material "as an addition to the growing store of knowledge which will permit state conservation


LOOK BEFORE YOU SHOOT!
SHOOTING IS FUN FOR THOSE WHO ARE CAREFUL

GUNPOWDER & ALCOHOL DON'T MIX
XXX
SHOOTING IS FUN FOR THOSE WHO ARE CAREFUL

WATCH YOUR STEP WITH A LOADED GUN
SHOOTING IS FUN FOR THOSE WHO ARE CAREFUL

departments and sportsmen's group to intelligently attack the problem of hunting accident in order that more people may enjoy the woods and fields in ever greater safety."

The Uniform Hunter Casualty Report, annual report consolidating the information gathered by the Association, contains reports from thirty states and four Canadian provinces for the year 1951. The report does not reflect the total number of hunting accidents for the year since all states did not participate, yet a total of 1105 hunter casualty reports were filed for the year ending December 31, 1951. Of these 198 were fatal. It is worthwhile to examine the chart listing the hunting casualties by cause:

HUNTING CASUALTIES BY CAUSE

Intentional Discharge	
Victim moved into line of fire	71
Victim covered by shooter	121
Victim unseen by shooter	214
Victim mistaken for game	103
Miscellaneous	82
Total	591
Accidental Discharge	
Shooter stumbled or fell	91
Trigger caught in brush	36
Clubbing game or cover	9
Removing weapon from vehicle or boat	26
While riding in or on moving vehicle	25
Weapon fell from insecure rest	39
Crossing fence	22
"Didn't know it was loaded" horse play	10
Loading	37
Unloading	32
Total	327

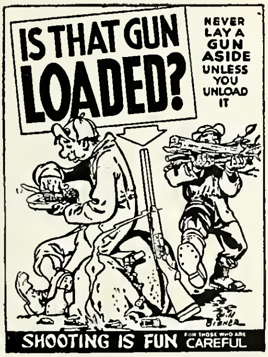
It is also interesting to note that your chances of becoming a statistic are much greater on the first few days of the season. In fact, 60% of the casualties occur during the first nine days of the season,—most within the first three. Carelessness reaches a peak from 10:00 to 11:00 in the morning and 3:00 to 4:00 in the afternoon, according to the statistics.

Most of the accidents happened when visibility was good to excellent, despite the fact that 60% of the victims were wearing red. The facts also bear out the contention that youth is most careless. Out of 600 cases where the age of the man doing the shooting was known, the 19 and under age group led all the rest with 211. Next came the 20-29 with 133 and the 30-39 with 112. When we consider that there are far more hunters in the 20-29 age group than there are under 20 we realize that these figures take on added meaning.

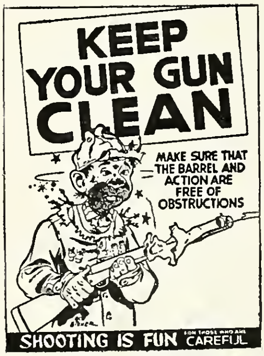
This year, for the first time, Louisiana will cooperate with the National Rifle Association in gathering data of this nature. The Enforcement Division will be charged with the responsibility of gathering the facts in the field. Each ranger captain has been furnished a supply of the comprehensive forms used by the NRA. When a firearm accident is brought to a captain's attention he will investigate, complete the form, and send it to the CONSERVATIONIST. The clerical staff of the magazine will tabulate the accidents and report them at the end of the year. All rangers have been alerted to notify their captain of any mishap they come across, and all of you readers are urged to help with this.

Louisiana has an excellent safety record —at least, we think it does. We haven't the facts to prove or disprove that belief. Let's make this coming season the safest ever. Urge your local sportsmen's club to promote a "gun safety" campaign. Tolerate no carelessness on the part of your hunting partner. Remember that once you pull the trigger you can't call that bullet back. Make sure—then make doubly sure.

—THE END


IS THAT GUN LOADED?
NEVER LAY A GUN ASIDE UNLESS YOU UNLOAD IT
SHOOTING IS FUN FOR THOSE WHO ARE CAREFUL

WATCH THAT MUZZLE
SHOOTING IS FUN FOR THOSE WHO ARE CAREFUL


KEEP YOUR GUN CLEAN
MAKE SURE THAT THE BARREL AND ACTION ARE FREE OF OBSTRUCTIONS
SHOOTING IS FUN FOR THOSE WHO ARE CAREFUL

with the FEDERATION

by

Charley Bosch

Executive Secretary

Louisiana Wildlife Federation

St. James Parish Sportsmen Organize

On July 17th the sportsmen of St. James Parish met in Lutcher for the purpose of organizing a sportsmen's club. The following temporary officers were elected: Pliny Olivier, President; Lionel Dicharry, Vice President; Edmond Bourgeois, Secretary; and Thomas Foret, Jr., Treasurer. Over sixty persons were present at the organizational meeting. Francis J. Braud, Secretary of the Federation, and myself were present at the meeting and aided the group to organize. The membership voted to set the dues at $2.00 per year with the fiscal year to end on June 30th. On August 5th the club held its second meeting and voted in favor of naming the unit the East St. James Parish Sportsmen's Club. The temporary officers had done such a fine job that the membership voted to retain the temporary officers as regularly elected officers. Following the meeting outdoor films were shown to the members in attendance. Plans are now being made to launch a project that will increase the supply of rabbits in the area; and plans are to establish sections within the main club, which will include a duck section, fresh water fishing section, salt water fishing section, small game section, bird section and deer section. All persons in the area that wish to join the club are invited to do so—just contact one of the officers of the club.

* * * *

Allen Parish Sportsman's Club Requests Affiliation

W. R. Mack, Secretary-Treasurer of the Allen Parish Club, just notified the office that the Board of Directors had voted to affiliate with the Federation. J. C. Callahan is President of the club and Dave Seals serves as Vice President. September 3rd is the date set for the next general meeting which will feature several outstanding speakers and a "big feed." By the end of the year we predict that the Allen Parish Sportsman's Club will have a membership of at least 500 and be one of the most respected clubs in the Federation.

Avoyelles Sportsmen Form League

Cottonport, La., was the town chosen by Avoyelles Parish sportsmen to hold the organizational meeting of the Avoyelles Sportsman's League. This meeting held on July 30th was attended by some seventy persons. Dues were set at $1.50 per year with the fiscal year to end on August 1, 1954. Lucien P. Laborde, of Hamburg was elected President of the league. J. T. Johnson, of Bunkie, was elected Vice President and G. V. Saucier, of Marksville, was named Secretary-Treasurer. The members approved selecting one person from each ward in the parish to serve on the league's board of directors, and approved the idea of holding meetings in various towns in the parish. Wildlife Ranger Alfred F. Couvillion of Simmesport deserves the credit for laying the groundwork for the formation of the league. Assisting at the organizational meeting was John Hickman, former Vice President of the Rapides Parish Wildlife Federation; J. J. Besson, past President of the Louisiana Wildlife Federation, and myself. A huge membership drive is well underway under the able leadership of newly elected Prexy Laborde. By the time you get this issue of the CONSERVATIONIST the members of the Avoyelles Sportsman's League will have consumed vast quantities of golden brown catfish served at its September fish fry.

* * * *

Over 1,000 Persons Attend Vernon Parish Fish Fry

Over 1,000 persons attended the annual fish fry held on Castor Lake near Leesville, and consumed over 800 pounds of catfish, a plentiful supply of fried potatoes, "hush-puppies," onions and pickles. The affair was by far the biggest success in the history of the Vernon Parish Wildlife League. Hon. Rep. F. E. "Pete" Hernandez, Paul Mitchell, Lewis Brown and O. M. Gobert were the chefs for the gala affair. Lewis Brown, league President, introduced the prominent guests which included L. D. Young, Director, Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission; Col. V. E. Smith, Chief of the Enforcement Division of the Commission; and Harry B. Hickman, President of the Federation. All three guests stated it was the "biggest fish fry they had ever attended."

* * * *

St. Tammany Sportsmen's Club Gar Fish Rodeo In Full Swing

Nick Fitzsimmons continues to lead local sportsmen in the gar fish rodeo sponsored by the club. This 47½ pounder is still the largest caught in parish waters in the men's division. Murphy "Red" Frosch has caught the largest number, and Mrs. J. L. Jenkins is the leader among the ladies with a 40 pound specimen. Duncan Barnes, 12 years old, is the leader in the junior division with a gar that weighed 30 pounds. Pete Lacroix, chairman of the rodeo, also gave us this bit of news: while fishing for speckled trout at the mouth of East Pearl River, "Red" Frosch landed a 23 pound Jack "stubborn" Crevalle on 20 pound test line. It took one hour and forty minutes to wear the fish down and boat it. Congratulations — "Red," perhaps that's the reason you slipped out of first place in the gar rodeo.

MAILING LIST POLICY A WISE ONE

Claude Gresham, Editor of the CONSERVATIONIST has notified all club secretaries as to the new policy on submitting names and addresses for the mailing list. Without a doubt this new policy will cause some difficulty at first, but in the final analysis the new system will prove of value to all parties involved. We trust that the officers of each club will understand the necessity of this new policy and will conform to it. Write the Commission office for an adequate supply of the forms to be used in placing names on the mailing list. Give one form to each new member with the reminder that HE must make the request for the magazine. We feel sure that every new member will do his part to insure receiving this splendid publication.

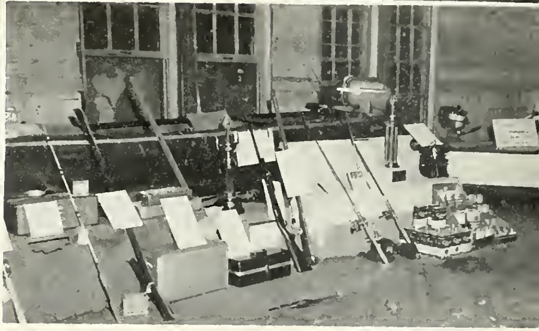
You are invited to participate in . .

TERREBONNE

Redfish Rodeo

OCTOBER 9-10-11, 1953

For further details contact
LOUIS ROUTIER, *Chairman*
c/o Citizen's Nat'l. Bank
Houma, La.



PRIZES GALORE!
AGE NO LIMIT!

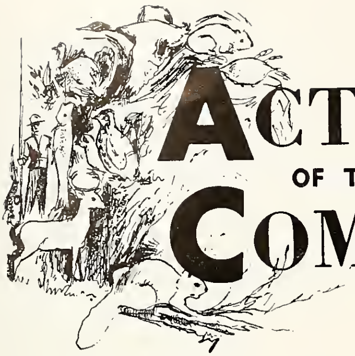
Some of last year's winners are shown here.

IBERIA PARISH ROD & GUN CLUB

Fishing Rodeo

OCTOBER 17-18, 1953

For further details contact
JIM LEDBETTER, *Chairman*
P. O. Box 193
New Iberia, La.



ACTION OF THE COMMISSION

TUESDAY, JUNE 23 MEETING

The salary schedule presented by Director L. D. Young, Jr., was approved in its entirety and included all appointments and/or dismissals made from December 11, 1952 to the present time; however, the adjustment for rangers, to $250 per month, will be made when finances permit.

Following a request by several police juries to permit killing of raccoons damaging farm crops, members of the Commission voted to allow killing of raccoons only under the direct supervision of a member of the Enforcement Division delegated by the division chief.

An application by R. M. Henry of Monroe to take sand and gravel from the bed of the Ouachita river was rejected by the Commission. A lease for the removal of clam shells from Calcasieu lake, Grand lake, Mallard bay and Moss lake was renewed by the agency for W. T. Burton.

Unanimous approval was given the recommendation made by Ted O'Neill, chief of the Division of Fur and Refuge, to make improvements on the Rockefeller Refuge, located in Vermilion and Cameron parishes, in the amount of $5,129,280. In addition, the following amounts were approved for other refuges and activities: Marsh Island, $380,140; State Wildlife, $91,220; Pass-a-Loutre, $231,080; Chicago Mill and Lumber Co. lease, $32,100; Morehouse Game Preserve lease, $24,000; State Game Preserve, St. Tammany parish, $26,000; State Fur Auction House, $148,000; Publications and Research, $221,000; Public Shooting Grounds, $179,383; Public Hunting and Fishing Reserves matched by federal funds, $1,000,000; Grand total—$7,463,003.

Requests of the police juries in Bienville and DeSoto parishes to close the season on deer were granted for a five-year period.

A resolution of the Ville Platte Sportsman's Club for the building of a fish ladder at Chicot lake was read and placed under study awaiting results of a similar ladder in Lake Bistineau. The Richland parish police jury's request to close Clear or Half Moon lake to commercial fishing was referred to the Fish and Game Division for study.

Following a discussion concerning alleged pollution in Calcasieu river, the seven-member board voted to instruct the Commission attorney and Frank J. Coogan, chief of the Division of Research and Statistics, to follow necessary procedures in getting action on the matter, particularly a charge previously filed by Chief Coogan against the Calcasieu Paper Co.

Upon recommendation by Dr. Lyle St. Amant of the Pittman-Robertson section, the group authorized and instructed biologists to work out a tagging system for deer, providing funds are available.

Sister lake, the state oyster seed grounds, was opened to hand tonging, beginning July 10 and continuing through November 1953. The Division of Oysters and Water Bottoms will keep records of all oysters removed from the lake, giving in detail the person removing same, amount removed, from which section of the lake and area for replanting.

Lake Pontchartrain was declared a "controlled fishery" upon recommendation by Robert L. Eddy, Jr., chief, Division of Commercial Seafoods, and opened to trawling by trawls no larger than 35 feet in designated areas beginning August 10, opening date of shrimping in "inside" waters. Opinions of six nationally-known biologists regarding the proponents of restrictive conservation theory as opposed to the advocates of dynamic measures of conservation were read to the session.

Only salaried and duly accredited rangers or enforcement officers will be permitted to wear uniforms, special agents will not, according to action by the agency.

COMMISSION ACTIVITIES AIRED

Four weekly programs, now being aired over 10 Louisiana radio stations, began August 22, explaining the activities of the various divisions of the Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission.

Schedule of the broadcasts follows:

KALB, Alexandria, August 22 and 29, September 6 and 13, 5:05—5:20 p.m.; KCIL, Houma, August 23 and 30, September 7 and 14, 12 noon; KLFY, Lafayette, August 23 and 30, September 7 and 14, 1:30 p.m.; KMLB, Monroe, August 22 and 29, September 6 and 13, 5:15—5:30 p.m.; KPLC, Lake Charles, August 22 and 29, September 6 and 13, 12:30—12:45 p.m.

KRMD, Shreveport, August 22 and 29, September 6 and 13, 5:45—6 p.m.; KROF, Abbeville, August 22 and 29, September 6 and 13, 1:30—2 p.m.; WIKC, Bogalusa, August 22 and 29, September 6 and 13, 5:15—5:30 p.m.; WJBO, Baton Rouge, August 22 and 29, September 6 and 13, 11:30—11:45 a.m.; WDSU, New Orleans, August 22 and 29, September 6 and 13, 4:45—5 p.m.

MAKE A QUIET NOISE!

by Homer Circle

Two fishermen were sitting in a boat, shooting plugs against an invisible shoreline in the black of night. One was an old-timer at this business of night surface fishing, the other a comparative newcomer.

The old-timer had four bass on his stringer, the younger plugger none. "Why are you getting strikes when I'm not?" asked the fishless individual. "I'm using the same color chugger as you."

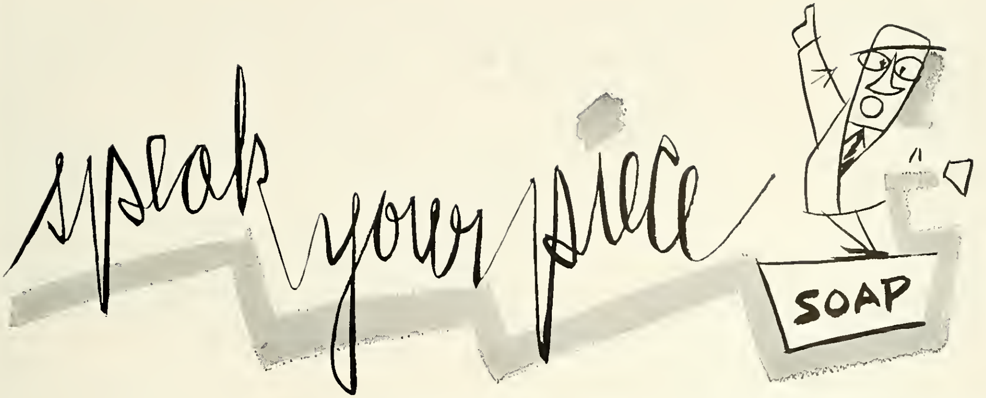
"You're making so much noise with it you are scaring away the bass. Make a quiet noise!" advised the old-timer.

"What the devil is a 'quiet noise'?" asked the puzzled one.

"Well, you're chugging that chugger so loud that we can plainly hear it. That means it sounds like a hippopotamus wallowing around to the bass; and bass don't eat such critters. You alarm the bass instead of enticing it. Now a quiet noise is one you can't hear, but the bass can. Nudge your rod tip gently and that chugger is making plenty of commotion, sounding to a bass like a big moth, bat, wounded minnow, frog, baby muskrat, or any number of small creatures.

"Entice the bass, and you get a strike. Scare it, and you'll get a good letting alone," wound up the old-timer.

"Hmmmm," the fishless one said eloquently. So he started making a quiet noise and started catching bass. That, says Heddon's Researchers, is August's tip for good night fishing—make a quiet noise!



JAPAN

Sir:

I am writing to you about the magazine. The last copy I received was the February issue; would like to know if maybe I've been forgotten. It really is a pleasure to receive the CONSERVATIONIST, and I do hope I can continue to receive it.

I would also like to know if there are any booklets available on different species of game and fish in Louisiana, and if so, if one could be mailed to me.

I've been fishing many times in Japan, but believe me, there is no comparison to fishing in Louisiana. One thing that can be said for the Japanese people: they do abide by game and fish laws, and the results are easily seen. There are over 80,000,000 people living in an area scarcely bigger than Louisiana, and the amount of game and fish available is unbelievable. I hope the new administration will do all within its power to improve fishing and hunting in our state.

—Clinton A. Sweeney

We are checking our mailing list to find out why you have not been receiving recent issues of the CONSERVATIONIST *and are also sending you all bulletins on game and fish which we have available.*

We appreciate your comments on the hunting and fishing in Japan and believe that when you return to Louisiana you will see a noticeable difference in game and fish law enforcement in the Pelican State.

—C.H.G.

* * * *

New Orleans, La.

Will you please place me on your mailing list? . . . I want to disagree with the idea of a fee for this publication. Heaven knows the Louisiana taxpayer ought to get some sort of a break!

—J. Douglas Hensley

We are glad to place your name on our mailing list and appreciate your comments regarding a fee for our publication. We would like to point out, however, that the money spent by the Wild Life and Fisheries Commission comes from revenue taken in by the Commission—not from the general tax fund. Thus the average "general taxpayer" contributes to the work we are doing only when he buys a hunting or fishing license.

—C.H.G.

* * * *

Hamilton, Texas

I am a Science teacher in the Hamilton Elementary School system and know that I could use the *Louisiana* CONSERVATIONIST very effectively in my class work if it is available to me.

—(Mrs.) Kathryne Baker Witty

* * * *

Can Fish See?

Chicago Cubs
Mesa, Arizona

Dear Sir:

I would like to get information concerning the eyesight of a fish. Could you send me information telling me if a fish can distinguish colors and why different colored baits are used to catch them?

James Willis

Many studies over the past years have resulted in the consensus of opinion that fish can very definitely distinguish colors. Further yet, they may possibly be able to separate shades of color that the human eye cannot. Why fish hit some colors better at certain times than other colors is something else again. Nobody knows. Wouldn't it be a shame if fish were colorblind. What fisherman wants a tackle box full of plugs all the same color? *—C.H.G.*

* * * *

Baton Rouge, La.

Your July-August issue was tops—far and above anything put out a couple of years ago and prior.

Do wish you had shown pictures of both Spanish and King mackerel. A lot of people have much trouble telling a little King from a Spanisher.

The digest of saltwater fishing methods was excellent, except for one thing: Almost without exception, the tackle listed was many times heavier than needed by any angler worthy of the name; and if used, it would certainly detract from enjoyment. Over in Port Arthur, for instance, we used a light tip, medium reel and 36-lb. line for tarpon, and we had a higher landing average than boys who tried to horse 'em in with outfits like you describe.

—"Texas Jack"

* * * *

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

Q. Do I need a license to keep wild animals or birds in captivity? If so, where do I get it and how much does it cost?

A. Yes, you should have a permit. These are issued without charge by the Fish and Game Division of the Commission, 126 Civil Courts Bldg., New Orleans.

* * * *

Q. Do I need a migratory waterfowl stamp (duck stamp) to hunt coots, rails, or gallinules?

A. No, it is required only for ducks, geese, and brant.

* * * *

Q. Who sets the season and bag limits on ducks and geese?

A. The U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Washington, D. C.

* * * *

Q. I want to construct a fish pond on my land. Where can I get information on how to do it and how to get it stocked?

A. From your nearest Soil Conservation Service office.

* * * *

Q. Does your magazine pay people to write articles for it?

A. No.

* * * *

Q. In the past the hunting licenses have not been on sale when the season on rails and gallinules starts. What must I do to hunt legally if licenses are not available?

A. Licenses will be on sale on or before September 1.

What theyre Saying!

J. ALLEN COMPTON, Houma *Courier*: There has been considerable discussion lately among sportsmen of the parish on a proposed public shooting ground and wildlife refuge.

No definite action has been taken on the proposal, and from information we can gather it is fairly safe to predict that no such grounds will be established in Terrebonne in the near future, probably for several years.

Under the proposed public shooting ground, most of the coast of the parish would have been affected.

A. J. Buquet, a member of the state department of wildlife and fisheries board, outlined the proposal to the Terrebonne Sportsmen's League last month. The league immediately went on record as opposing such a public shooting ground.

The Sportsmen's league contended that such action would place under government control a large section of the parish that is, in the popular sense, already a public shooting ground.

* * * *

BOGALUSA *DAILY NEWS*: With Washington Parish seeking an open deer season this winter for the first time in almost 20 years, an article appearing in the current *LOUISIANA CONSERVATIONIST* magazine is of marked interest to this area of the state and the state as a whole.

Authors Lyle St. Amant and Carroll Perkins outline the historic past of the Louisiana deer population, reasons why it dwindled and recent increases.

Originally, Louisiana claimed between 250,000 and 400,000 deer. From 1920-25, the deer population reached its lowest ebb, estimated at 20,000 or less. Since that time conservation laws have given rise to a rebirth in large deer populations throughout the state, with the present population estimated at 70,000. This figure still represents a decrease in population of 77 percent in the last 25 years.

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ADRAS LABORDE, Alexandria *Daily Town Talk*: I have kept out of the argument over opening of the deer season in Rapides Parish pending the development of facts to support one side or the other.

These facts, provided by the Louisiana Wildlife and Fisheries Commission, indicate to me that the police jury made a mistake in voting to open the deer season for one year.

Here are the figures, which speak for themselves: By July, 1952, the state had stocked the refuge at Camp Claiborne with 54 deer. Based on a normal 30 percent increase, the population there is 72. The population of the Woodworth refuge is 70. Thus there are only 210 deer in the parish. Even if you add the 68 reported on the Grand Rapids refuge north of the Red River and 12 other deer claimed to be in the area, the total population of Rapides and the Grant Parish refuge area is only 222.

If the present herd increases at the maximum rate of 30 percent annually for five years, there will be about 1,000 deer in the area in 1958. Of that number about 330 will be legal bucks.

The conclusion is obvious. There are far too few deer in Rapides to open the season safely. A closed season for the next five to eight years is indicated.

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ARTHUR VAN PELT, New Orleans *Times Picayune*: Bobby Moran, while fishing with his father, Jimmie Moran, Frank Camp and Martin Molero, just off Point Chico in Chandeleur Sound, hooked and landed the second largest blackfish of which we have record. It was a 33-pounder taken on speckled trout gear and only after an extended battle. Oddly enough a 23-pounder had been caught in almost the same spot on the previous day.

Largest in the Louisiana records is a 34-pounder caught off Grand Isle during the 1948 Grand Isle rodeo.

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BOB SCEARCE, Baton Rouge *Morning Advocate*: Murphy Henderson of Denham Springs, who is assistant principal of Live Oak High School, and D. H. Hartman, also of Denham Springs, landed the biggest yellow or spotted catfish ever to come out of the Amite River at or near the Port Vincent Bridge—a 62-pounder. This "tabby," which measured 46 inches in length, was hooked on a trot-line about six miles above the Port Vincent Bridge and took a live spot-tail shiner on the line. It took the boys about five minutes to land him, and in the process Henderson got one of the big hooks next to the fish imbedded in his right index finger. He suffered a painful wound.

They had 15 cats in all, with another one, a blue cat, going 15 pounds. Peggy Berecegay said he had heard of a blue cat tipping 72 pounds taken there, but that he had never heard of a yellow cat that large in 30 years.

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LAFAYETTE DAILY ADVERTISER: Spin fishing is gaining favor with many Lafayette area sportsmen, and some have shown that even beginners at the newest type of casting can land limits with very little trouble.

One Lake Martin fishman found that he caught a lot more bream the first day he used his new spinning rig than on previous trips with casting and fly rigs. He expressed delight at the versatility of the spinning right with either casting plugs or light flies.

He hastened to explain, however, that he didn't attribute the nice catch entirely to the spinning rig, because he went back the next day and caught only two "pee-wees" on the same tackle.

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JENNINGS *DAILY NEWS*: You Rod and Gun Clubbers that missed the meeting last Thursday night really missed something.

J. H. Sutherlin, manager of the Lacassine Refuge, truly gave us a splendid talk. Space does not permit us to give you a resume of all that he touched upon. He had facts and figures at finger tip control of any and all questions propounded to him. To say it was educational would be making an understatement. You who weren't there just flat missed a treat.

Bayou Browsing

On schedule, my friend—or hadn't you noticed? Most of the July-August books were mailed out prior to August 1 and you should be getting this September issue before about September 10. Barring unforeseen delaying catastrophes, such as a too appealing fishing trip, we will begin mailing each monthly issue out about the first of that month.

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Tremendous response from the "Salt Water Fishing Digest" in the July-August mag, and some excellent suggestions as to how future such presentations might be improved. We have planned other features like this one for all sections of the state. One we have in mind will be on the "Great Lakes of Northwest Louisiana", Caddo, Cross, Bistineau, Black, Clear, and Saline.

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Although it goes against the grain for us to recommend any magazine other than the LOUISIANA CONSERVATIONIST we feel we have no alternative in this case. THE FISHERMAN magazine, Oxford, Ohio, began as a regional publication. Since it went national some two years ago it has become the fastest growing outdoor publication in the country. It carries only material that will interest the sport fisherman and the emphasis is placed on thought-provoking factuals on fish management and on where-to-go and how-to-do articles, with a minimum of the me-and-George-caught-a-boatful-of-fish narratives. At three bucks a year we recommend it without qualification to the fisherman. And, incidentally, the August issue carries a story on Caddo Lake.

The other book we'll make mention of is incidental to the organization it stems from. It's the AMERICAN RIFLEMAN, the official monthly publication of the National Rifle Association. As opposed to FISHERMAN, this one is for shooters only. One of the services maintained by the NRA, which alone is worth my four dollar annual membership fee (which includes the magazine) is a close check on anti-gun legislation throughout the country. When a bill affecting the ownership or possession of firearms springs up in any state, the NRA members in that state immediately receive a notice advising them as to the merits or vices of the proposed legislation. It is through such vigilance that literally hundreds of measures similar to the Sullivan Law in New York City (which has resulted several times in the arrest of homeowners for shooting burglars in their houses) have been forestalled. Headquarters of the NRA is 1600 Rhode Island Ave., Washington, D. C.

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The Chandler, Ariz. sportsmen's club dreamed this one up. They printed cards for all their members addressed to "Mr. Merchant". When a member buys gasoline to go fishing he hands the station owner a card. When he pays the grocery bill for food to be used on an outdoor outing, he gives a card to the grocer. The card informs the merchant that the purchase is the result of a hunting or fishing trip; it's all a plan to make them aware that hunting and fishing means more business to people selling all kinds of goods and services. Good idea!

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Hope you didn't skip "Just One More" on page 7 of the May-June issue. If a writer ever wove a spell with words George Hebert did in that short. And if an artist ever caught the mood with his illustration, Noel Jeffrey did with his work on the facing page. Hebert is the editor of CITIESENTINEL, monthly magazine of the City Service Refining Corp. He is also a writer and photographer of note, having had articles published in a number of national magazines. You'll be seeing more of his work in the CONSERVATIONIST.

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Now is the time—last call, in fact—to get that shootin' iron readied for the fall hunting. If you've ever found a gunsmith who would handle a "rush" job then you're one up on me. Which reminds me that I need a new sear on my Model 12.

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Hey, where are all those fish records we asked for back in the April issue? We've got a seven pound bass and a number of good bream, but most species have been slow in coming in. Here again are the fish we'd like to get data on. If you catch one above these weights write for one of our entry forms or check your April issue.

Fresh Water: Kentucky Bass—3 lbs.; Largemouth Bass—7 lbs.; Crappie—2½; White Bass (striper)—3; Bream—12 oz.; Goggle-eye—1 lb.; Gar—100 lbs.; Blue Catfish—50 lbs.; Gaspergou—20 lbs.; Choupique (grinnel)—8 lbs. Salt Water: Tarpon—125 lbs.; Cobia—40 lbs.; Jack Crevalle—30 lbs.; Dolphin—10 lbs.; Bonito—15 lbs.; King Mackerel—25 lbs.; Spanish Mackerel—4 lbs.; Redfish—25 lbs.; Sheepshead—10 lbs.; Tripletail — (blackfish) — 12 lbs.; Jewfish — 300 lbs.; Speckled Trout—5 lbs.; Croaker—2 lbs.; Flounder—7 lbs.; Bluefish—4 lbs.; Striped Bass—8 lbs.; Sailfish (all of them); Wahoo (all of them); and Drum—50 lbs.

LOUISIANA ROOM
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LOUISIANA HUNTING and TRAPPING SEASONS

1953-54

Resident Game Birds and Animals

BOBWHITE (quail or partridge)—December 1 to February 10, inclusive. Bag limit 10, possession limit 20; 80 a season.

WILD TURKEYS—Closed until July 26, 1954.

DEER (bucks only)—November 18 to January 1, inclusive. One daily, two a season. Check with your police jury as to the 1953-54 season or request special form showing open season, if any, in all parishes. Unlawful to take fawn or deer with horns less than three (3) inches in length.

SQUIRRELS AND CHIPMUNKS—October 20 to January 10, inclusive. Bag limit 8, possession limit 8. (Squirrels and chipmunks, 80 in the aggregate per season.)

RABBITS—October 15 to February 15, inclusive. Limit 5 per day; possession limit 10. Sale prohibited.

BEARS—December 16 to December 31, inclusive. One per person, per season.

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Trapping Seasons

MUSKRAT—December 1 to February 15.

NUTRIA—January 1 to February 15.

MINK—November 15 to January 10.

ALL OTHER FURBEARERS—November 15 to February 15.

ALL TRAPPING (except MINK, in Plaquemines Parish, below Pointe a la Hache)—December 1 to February 15.

(**MINK in Plaquemines Parish, below Pointe a la Hache**—December 1 to January 10.)

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Migratory Regulations

DUCKS—November 17 to January 10, inclusive. Daily bag limits on ducks (except American and red-breasted Mergansers) are 4 in the aggregate of all kinds, including in such limit not more than 1 wood duck. Any person at any time may possess NOT more than eight ducks in the aggregate of all kinds (not including American and red-breasted Mergansers), but NOT more than 1 wood duck. American and red-breasted Mergansers, 25 singly or in the aggregate (no possession limit).

Warning: NOT MORE THAN ONE DAY'S BAG LIMIT MAY BE POSSESSED OPENING DAY. Shooting hours: One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

GEESE—November 17 to January 10, inclusive. Daily bag and possession limit 5, including in such limit either two Canada geese (including Hutchinsons or Cackling geese) or two white-fronted (commonly known as speckle-bellies) geese, or one of each.

COOTS (Poule-d'Eau)—November 17 to January 10, inclusive. Bag limit 10, possession limit 10.

DOVES—December 12 to January 10, inclusive. Bag limit 8, possession limit 8. Afternoon shooting only.

SNIPE—December 22 to January 5, inclusive. Bag limit 8, possession limit 8.

SORA RAIL—October 1 to November 29, inclusive. Bag limit 25, possession limit 25.

RAILS AND GALLINULES—October 1 to November 29, inclusive. Bag limit 15, possession limit 15.

WOODCOCK—December 12 to January 20, inclusive. Bag limit 4, possession limit 8.

SHOOTING HOURS FOR DUCKS, GEESE, COOTS, SORA RAILS AND GALLINULES—One-half hour before sunrise to sunset. Note: On opening day of season shooting cannot start before 12:00 noon. Ask for form of shooting schedules.

SHOOTING HOURS FOR WOODCOCK—One-half hour before sunrise to sunset.

SHOOTING HOURS FOR DOVES—12:00 noon until sunset.

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Use of bait and live decoys prohibited. Legal limit of migratory game birds may be possessed 90 days after the close of season. Hunters of ducks and geese must have a federal duck stamp attached to their state hunting license, or old age permit. Duck stamps required by Federal Government can be obtained from U. S. Postoffice. Use of rifles or shotguns larger than a 10 gauge, or guns capable of holding more than 3 shells prohibited. The plug used in guns must be incapable of being removed without disassembling gun. Legal possession limits of resident game birds or game animals may be possessed up to within 30 days of the opening of the following season.

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Licenses

HUNTING LICENSE, RESIDENT .... Required of all hunters, except persons over 60 years of age who must have old-age permit.	$ 2.00
NON-RESIDENT HUNTING LICENSE—Trip—4 consecutive days	5.00
NON-RESIDENT HUNTING LICENSE—Season...............	25.00
TRAPPING LICENSE....................................... (Only residents permitted to trap)	2.00
FUR BUYER, resident license................................	25.00
FUR BUYER, non-resident.................................	100.00
FUR DEALER, resident (Deposit $500.00 required).............	150.00
NON-RESIDENT DEALER (Deposit $1,000.00 required)........	300.00

Louisiana Wild Life and Fisheries Commission

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